

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed December 13, 2006, all pending claims are listed. Claims not previously amended are shown as "Original" claims. Claims amended in response to the office action dated June 17, 2004 are shown as "Currently amended." The claim status is correct to the best knowledge of the Applicant's agent, who kindly requests the Examiner to indicate if the status of any claim(s) appears to be incorrect.

Remarks made in the office action response dated December 18, 2003 remain applicable to claims listed herein. Claims not directly addressed in the remarks included in the response of December 18, 2003 are patentable by virtue of their dependence from allowable claims for at least the reasons given for such claims.

In a telephone conversation with the Examiner on March 8, 2007, the Examiner expressed a concern that the (one-month shortened statutory) period for response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed December 13, 2006 may not be extendible. The Applicant's agent notes that the text of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment states "Extensions of time are available under 37 CFR 1.136(a) only if the non-compliant amendment is a non-final amendment or an amendment filed in response to a *Quayle* action." Since the non-compliant amendment filed June 17, 2004 was in response to the non-final office action mailed December 18, 2003, this response meets the definition of extendibility and is therefore extendible.

The Examiner is invited to contact Mr. Christopher A. Wiklof at (425) 455-5575 with any issues that may advance prosecution of the application on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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